

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 PM Conference Room

Present: Jim Braniff, Laura De Boisblanc, Antonio Del Rosario, Fr. Hilbert, Marguerite Lucarelli, John Mancuso Letty Moss-Salentijn, Sarah Tintle, Fr. Yesalonia

Absent: Paul Capetillo

Guest: Mary Larkin

Agenda

1. **Prayer.** Father Hilbert opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Staff Presentation: Head of School Mary Larkin.**

Mary Larkin has been with Saint Ignatius Loyola School since 2011. In 2014 she was appointed Principal of the Grammar School. In 2020, the Pre-School (formerly Day Nursery) was merged with the Grammar School, and Mary was named Head of School. The current structure is divided into The Lower Campus and The Upper Campus. The Lower Campus (240 East 84th Street) is for PreK-3 through Kindergarten (80 pupils); the Upper Campus (48 East 84th Street) is for Grades 1-8 (455 pupils).

- A. Mary spoke to the Council about the life of the school during the pandemic. The school was closed for only two months after the lockdown in 2020 and quickly organized for hybrid teaching so that, unlike many schools in the area, the students were back in the classrooms part-time, with all the necessary sanitary and health precautions in place. This was a remarkable achievement, and Mary praised the students, faculty, and parents. “They never missed a beat.” With the current academic year, the school is in full regular session.
- B. The Saint Ignatius Loyola School is a National Blue Ribbon School. This signal achievement is the result of a nurturing environment, a dedicated, stellar faculty, a pedagogy of co-teaching in the Jesuit tradition, the active participation of the parents, and a mission to integrate Catholic Christian values with high academic achievement. It provides a private school education for a parochial school tuition.

C. The current urgent needs for the school are a new elevator in the Lower Campus and a roof renovation in the Upper Campus. Fundraising efforts are being prepared for these capital works. A brief discussion followed with questions and answers.

3. **Review of Minutes 14 September 2022.** The members had received the minutes from the September 14th Council meeting, and the Pastor asked that any comments be sent to him. The minutes were accepted as presented.
4. **Report: Pastor.** Father Yesalonia reported that:
 - a. The school is experiencing a slight deficit, due to a drop in the student body during the pandemic. This deficit is expected to be eliminated with increased enrollment.
 - b. There is a new development director for the Music Department.
 - c. Pulpit announcements at the end of the Sunday Masses will be limited to changes in the Mass schedule for Solemnities and holidays, and upcoming special collections.
 - d. The bronze front doors of the church are frequently jumping out of their tracks and jamming. Repair work would be very expensive, and thought is being given to reinforcing the glass doors and leaving the bronze doors open.
 - e. New processional candlesticks for the Wallace Hall Family Mass have been purchased.
 - f. Delays in the supply chain have affected a number of planned capital projects, for example, the new front door for the Parish House and the awning over the entrance.
5. **Parish Finances and increased giving efforts.**

A discussion was opened for the members thoughts about ongoing efforts to increase parishioner giving. Among the suggestions were: a campaign to favor online giving, especially for those persons who participate regularly in our livestreamed Mass; putting a QR code on all parish mailings; using parish-wide events to encourage donations; having members of the Parish Council and Finance and Investment Committees address the issue when the Parish Financial Statement is published.
6. **Discussion: Vision Statement *Implementation*.** Updating the Council on the implementation of the Parish Vision Statement, Father Yesalonia communicated that 27 parishioners have volunteered to serve on the four committees. Father Yesalonia will speak at the end of all Mass

this weekend (10/15-16) to encourage others to volunteer. The inaugural meeting of the combined committees will be Monday, November 21st.

7. **Archdiocesan and U.S. Reports: Synod on Synodality.** The one-page archdiocesan report and the 16-page national report were distributed, with comments from Father Yesalonia.
8. **Other Business:**
 - a. The system of assigning EM's and Lectors can be improved, and a spirit of cordiality, respect, and common mission can be fostered.
 - b. It was suggested that the names of those who bring up the Offertory gifts can be mentioned, especially if they are couples and/or members of one family. This is recommended for the Family Mass, in particular.
 - c. It is hoped that the "coffee hour" after the 11 o'clock Masses on Sunday will continue as long as possible. It is a moment that many parishioners value and appreciate.
 - d. The Ministries Appreciation Dinner will be held on Tuesday, October 18.

The Pastor concluded the meeting with a prayer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday 09 November 2022, in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted.

Michael Hilbert, S.J.